



John Curran waves a sheaf of sponsored walk forms which add up to £50—the highest-ever sum collected by an individual on a sponsored walk in the London area. John, aged 17, is a pupil at Stationers' Company School, London, and his mother, Mrs. Doris Curran, is a collector the Spastics Pool. The scene of the target-topping walk was London's Trent Park, and John walked 10 miles to raise the money.

## Home in memory of Jean Garwood

IF it had not been for Miss Jean Garwood the story of The Spastics Society could have been very different. For she was one of the four founder members, twenty-one years ago, and her death in November, 1971, was a tragic blow.

Now the Croydon and District Spastics Society, with which she was closely associated, has decided on a tribute to her. The site next to the Bramley Hill Work Centre has been bought and a unit for 10 to 12 severely handicapped spastics will be built to her memory.

Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director, Services, said: "The development of a hostel is a most fitting tribute to Jean Garwood, who devoted so much of her life to The Spastics Society's work and that of the Croydon and District Spastic Society."

## Susan and "heartbroken" mother turned away from holiday hotel

A SIX-YEAR-OLD spastic girl became so upset after being turned away from the sea-side hotel where she was holidaying that she had to be taken to hospital.

The girl, Susan Snape of Cosgrove Crescent, Failsworth, near Manchester, had been staying with her mother at the hotel for just two days. After examination at the hospital she was allowed to leave.

The story of Susan's holiday which had a happy ending was told in the Sunday People newspaper.

Susan and her mother, Mrs. Marjorie Snape, 36, had gone to Folkestone to be near Mrs. Snape's husband, Stan, who was at the local Territorial Army Training Camp.

### Complaints

The hotel proprietor was quoted as telling the Sunday People that guests complained Susan's crying was upsetting them, and that she could not eat properly.

The then hotel manager, Mr. Patrick Cooper, was quoted as saying: "I could have lost 20 guests if Mrs. Snape and her daughter hadn't left."

When Spastics News contacted the hotel, Mr. Cooper's brother, Derek, who has taken over as manager, said: "My brother was absolutely disgusted because the paper only gave one side of the story. I don't know where my brother has gone."

Susan was taken to Canterbury Hospital because her mother feared she would have convulsions. The hospital decided that she was all right but badly shaken by seeing her mother so upset. Mrs. Snape is reported as saying: "I was absolutely heartbroken. I just sobbed."

However, the Snapes' holiday was not entirely ruined, for they moved to a nearby hotel and a completely different reception.

Mrs. Nina Savage, of the Derring Court Hotel, Marine Crescent, said: "She wasn't any trouble. In fact, Susan was less trouble than an ordinary child because, poor



Above: Susan with her mother, home again after their holiday.

Picture by courtesy of the Sunday People

child is a child and, in fact, I had as guests at the same time a middle-aged couple with a mongol daughter of 28. There was never any unpleasantness or objections."

## She fights for a car

SUSAN Foster, winner of the women's poetry prize in the 1973 Literary Contest for spastics is due to begin a sociology and social administration course at Durham University this month.

But there is one big snag. The Department of Health and Social Security have refused to let Susan have an invalid car. This means she will probably have to travel by bus every day from her home, five miles from Durham. She finds getting on and off buses difficult at the best of times and particularly in winter, especially when she is laden with books and the tape recorder she needs for lecture notes.

There is also the problem of moving about the scattered university buildings in bad weather. Susan is afraid that, if she falls over, she could damage her tape recorder.

She has appealed against the Ministry decision and if this fails, she intends to contact her M.P., Dr. Mark Hughes.

## A rose by any . . .

The Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society is to be given a new name, it was announced at the group's annual general meeting recently. From next April, the organisation will be known as the Cumbria Spastics Society.

## Robin's international birthday party

IT is bad enough to be in hospital on your 10th birthday—in a plaster cast from the waist down. But what really doesn't help is when all your friends speak Cantonese and you only speak English.

Robin Surgeoner did the only thing he could—he threw a party. Robin is the spastic son of military scientist Mr. Hugh Surgeoner and two years ago the family was posted to Hong Kong.

It was the doctors at the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital who decided to see if an operation would help to get Robin on his feet after an Army doctor had taken him along to see them. His spasticity had first become apparent when he was 15 months old and affected his legs so that he could not walk. The operation was only a partial success and so Robin has undergone a second which meant another two months in hospital. Few of the doctors and nurses speak English but despite the language barrier Robin has made a lot of friends.

"But," he says, "I'll be glad to go home again. I'm really looking forward to getting back to my swimming."

He recently earned the Amateur Swimming Association's gold medal.

Picture by courtesy of the London Evening News



## October date for Society's A.G.M.

THE most important event in The Spastics Society's year—the Annual General Meeting—will be held in London on Saturday, October 27th. The meeting will have a special significance, as 1973 is the Society's 21st anniversary year and voluntary workers will be coming from all over the country to hear of the Society's past progress and future plans.

Chairman Mr. William Burn told Spastics News: "This is the vital meeting at which members who are working for spastics in their own communities come together under one roof to hear a review of the Society's activities, and learn of the Executive Council's future policy."

"One of our cherished ambitions is to help integrate

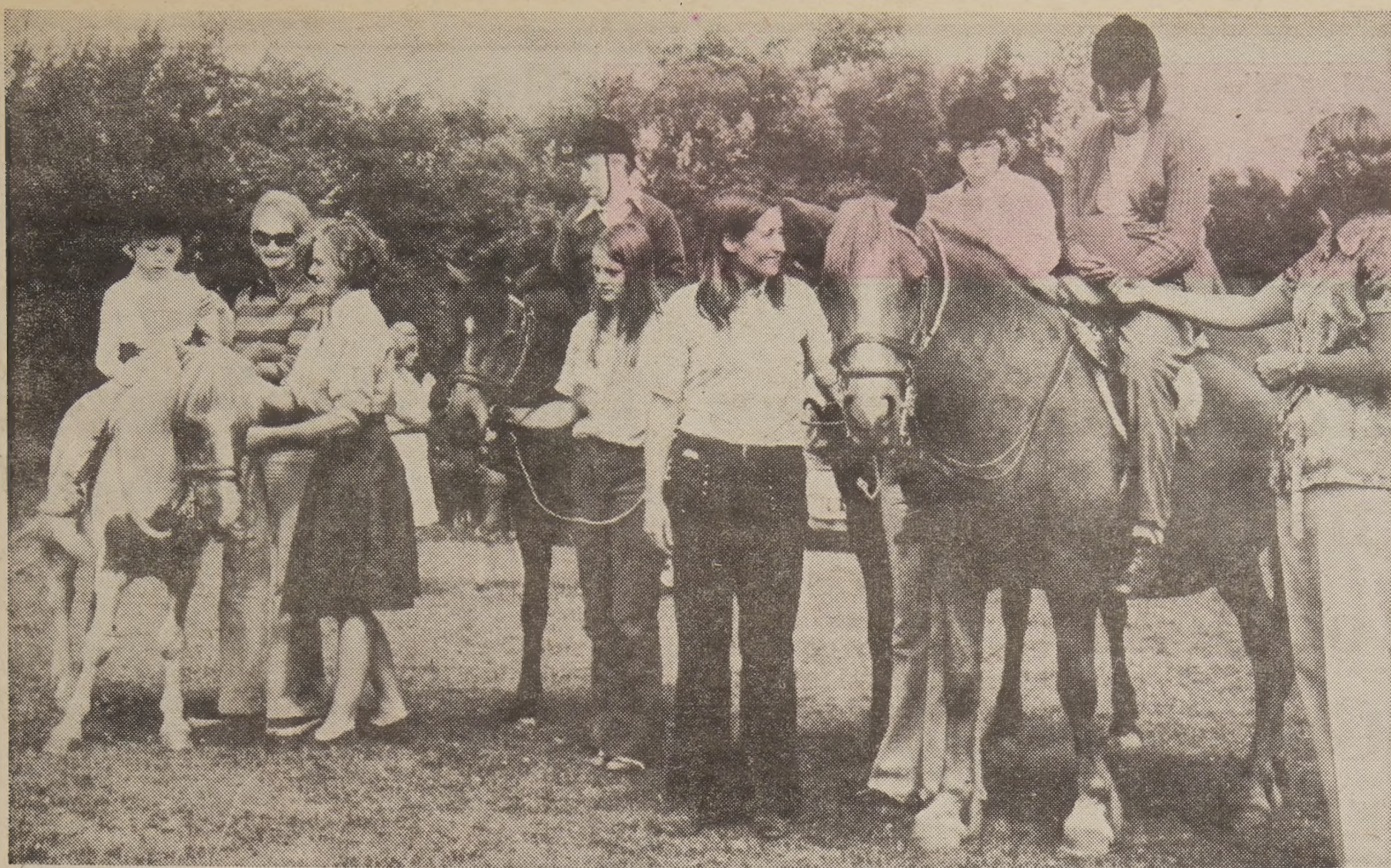
spastics, and all handicapped people, fully into the community. We also firmly believe that spastics and their families should be given an opportunity to discuss what they believe they need in the way of services and help, rather than being given what others think they should have."

"The Society has made an enormous difference to the lives of spastics during its 21 years' history but unfortunately a great deal remains to be done and our work only underlines the gaps waiting to be filled. The standard of living of most people in the community has risen considerably, and we must prevent the gap between the able-bodied and the handicapped being widened. Our hope is to narrow and eventually eliminate that gap, so that the disabled can share the same aspirations as the rest of their fellow citizens, and have real possibility of them being fulfilled."

The A.G.M. will be held in the Edward Lumley Hall at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Field, and after the morning meeting, delegates will visit Society Centres in London and the Home Counties.

Guest speaker at the A.G.M. will be Professor Peter Townsend of the University of Essex.





**YOUNG** pupils from Langside School, run by the Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society have been having riding lessons for the past two years. Recently, 12 of the children received Grade 1 proficiency certificates, to the delight of their voluntary instructors from the Holtwood branch of the Riding for the Disabled Association.

When they first started riding, each child had to be assisted by three people. Now they can all ride and control their horses without help.

The 12 riders receiving certificates were Paul Beswick, Sarah Botham, Paul Cash, Mark Griffiths, Caroline Jermyn, Tim Kite, Susan Lawford, Nigel Legg, Carol Lonnor, Wendy Pore, Christina Rensik and Robin Simpson.

In the picture some of them are being handed their certificates by Mrs. Gibson-Fleming (right).

(Picture by courtesy of Bournemouth Evening Echo).

## Snaking up the record ladder

**SIX** Hampshire schoolboys may never want to see a snake or a ladder again but this popular nursery game has earned them a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

The boys, Peter Blake, Richard Holt, Andrew Mackenzie, Colin Sharpey, Elton Johnson and Melvin Hiscock of Bay House School played snakes and ladders continuously for 100 hours earlier this year in aid of Gosport and Fareham Spastics Society. They raised more than £170 to buy folding mini-wheelchairs to help transport children to and from the Spastics Centre, in Rowner.

As a result the boys, in addition to their old school tie, are qualified to wear the special tie for those whose names appear in the Guinness Book of Records.

Now the lads are hoping to organise another fund-raising marathon for the local spastics group. It will be either table-tennis or table football and, who knows, they might qualify for yet another entry in that book.

A choir of educationally sub-normal school children will join children from the Granville House school, run by the Stockport, East Cheshire and High Park Spastics Society, for their Harvest Festival on October 17.

A PETTICOAT LANE style market held at Scaynes Hill, Sussex, made a profit of £500 for the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society. A cheque for this amount was handed to Group Chairman Ald. Dudley Baker at a wine and cheese party given every year as a "thank you" to local people who help the group.

## Let's have more chatty newspapers says John

**MOST** people have a favourite newspaper or magazine, but 500 people in Cardiff have a very extra special publication delivered to them by the postman on the first day of each month.

The publication is not a conventional one like, for instance, SPASTICS NEWS, but a talking magazine — a magazine on tape produced by a group of volunteers and sent to registered blind and partially sighted people who possess talking book machines.

The tape, up to two hours long, includes items about achievements by, and services for, the visually handicapped, and general themes of interest about South Wales.

Sporting, stage and television stars are interviewed, there is an extensive postbag, interviews with listeners, a birthday spot, and a Quiet Corner religious talk.

A team of reporters gather the news during the month and then they take over an old BBC Wales studio and produce a master tape.

When completed the tape is taken to the South Wales Talking Magazine's

own studio at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

There the master tape is copied, with the help of 15 copying "slave" machines — and this part of the operation is carried out by a team which includes three registered blind persons.

The cassettes on to which the master tape is copied are then sent free of charge by the G.P.O. to the listeners.

One of the producers of the magazine is South Wales Echo journalist Mr. John O'Sullivan, the eldest brother of Barry-born Elizabeth O'Sullivan, who was a pupil at Erwy Delyn School, Penarth, and is now employed at The Spastics Society's Meadway Works.

In September John started a 13-week travelling scholarship to enable him to study the whole question of communications to the blind and disabled. He intends to visit Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Denmark, Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan.

He said: "There are only seven talking newspaper centres—all catering exclusively for the blind—in Britain. Five of these are in Wales.

"I would like to see a talking newspaper or talking magazine catering for the blind and disabled including spastics, in every major town in Britain and, indeed, the world.

"Catering for the blind is comparatively easy, as the Government allows the Post Office to give free postage. This is a privilege which I would like to see extended to all other classifications of handicapped people who could benefit from the talking newspaper.

"But I fear that the cost of the service may prohibit many would-be listeners of talking books and newspapers. On my return from the tour I hope to be in a position to show the powers-that-be in this country how talking book and talking newspaper facilities are financed in other countries, and to persuade as many local organisations as possible to take up this vital and challenging work."



Mr. J. O'Sullivan, producer of the South Wales Talking Magazine for the Blind, with his sister, Elizabeth, and her fiancé, Terry Lamb, at the recent National Spastics Games. Elizabeth and Terry both live at the Society's Broadstones Hostel, Birmingham.

## Do you know young Janet?

A LETTER from an enthusiastic young would-be-fund-raiser has been received at Spastics Society Headquarters. The writer, Janet Boosey, says that she has organised a fete and bazaar in aid of spastics, and has asked us for a poster or letter of authorisation. But, unfortunately, Janet has forgotten to put her address.

We hate to disappoint youngsters who are so keen to help the cause, so if anybody knows Janet Boosey, please could they contact the Society's Information Department immediately.

## New help for disabled at Heathrow Airport

**TRAVELLING** by air from any of our airports is likely to produce a headache for the most hardened and experienced of travellers. For the disabled it can be a positive nightmare—where to go and how to get there, whether it is for help with a wheelchair or the direction of the toilets can be as much of a plague as the loss of baggage and Customs delay is to the seasoned passenger.

Now the British Airports Authority in conjunction with the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled, on which The Spastics Society is represented, have come up with the answer.

It is a short, bright, informative little booklet entitled "Who looks after you at Heathrow Airport?" And it is free. One point the booklet makes

clear is that there are different areas of responsibility. For instance, sometimes it is the Airport authority's duty to take care of you, and sometimes that of the airline you are flying.

To smooth the way the booklet suggests you inform the airline of any disability when you book your ticket. Then if you need an ambulance from the terminus to the plane it can be arranged in good time. The

booklet clearly shows where there are lavatories specifically designed for the disabled and the whereabouts of ramps. It is hoped to produce further booklets relating to other airports in the country.

"Who looks after you at Heathrow?" is published by the British Airports Authority and can be obtained free of charge from the Central Council for the Disabled, Holidays Section, 34 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PS; the Disabled Living Foundation, Information Service, 346 Kensington High Street, London, W14 8NS, with the addition of a s.a.e. for individual copies, as bulk orders are sent free; or from the British Airports Authority, Press and Public Relations, Queen's Building, Heathrow Airport, London, also available at the information desks in the terminal building.

## Clans gather to help spastics

**THE** CAMPBELLS and MacDonalds recently did something that would have seemed impossible 200 years ago, when one side practically wiped out the other—they joined forces. And the cause was the Scottish Spastics Appeal Fund. Working together, the two ancient enemies raised nearly £800 at the Argyll Fair.

Gifts and goods came from all over Argyll to stock the stalls, and there was jewellery made by spastic children also on sale. The fair was opened by the new Duke of Argyll.



## Splashes from the Spastics Pool

In last month's Spastics News we featured Miss Joan Harris of Hanley Castle, Worcester, showing surprised delight at the news of her success in the Golfing Competition. Imagine her reaction when at a special presentation at the Giffard Hotel, High Street, Worcester, she received her cheque for £5,000 from Boppo the Bear. The happy occasion is shown in the picture below.



## Boppo calling Hello children

I THOUGHT you would like to know how Boppo's Club is getting on and what I've been up to in the past few weeks.

Well, I've had an avalanche of letters from boys and girls all over the country, yes, and from mothers, fathers and grandparents as well; it seems the whole family is interested in our club and everybody is anxious to help us get enough money to buy Boppo Buses for handicapped children. We've made lots of members, heaps of friends, and we hope we're going to raise mountains of money so that we can get a whole fleet of mini-buses.

Lots of you made good use of your time during the school holidays organising raffles, jumble sales, selling unwanted toys and comics, and my Bounty Box has benefited from collections of pre-decimal coins, Green Shield stamps, cigarette coupons, foreign and British stamps, menu holders ... all sorts of things. I

I was very touched by the little girl who, in spite of being in hospital for 27 months, is busy saving stamps for us, and the children in Belfast



A happy looking Mr. R. Harrison of Hull receiving the keys of his Vauxhall Viva from Mr. Pritchett, Chairman of the Hull and District Spastics Society.

## Pool people help with new group

WITH the introduction of the new county boundary early in 1974, the South Humberside Spastics Society will be breaking away from Lincolnshire, and the members of its affiliated group in Louth felt that it was necessary to establish their own Society.

An open meeting under the chairmanship of Mike Venables, the Senior Regional Officer, Midlands, of The Spastics Society, was held in the Royal British Legion Hall with the purpose of establishing local support for the project. This was forthcoming, and area supervisor George Storr, his wife, Margaret, and collectors Doreen King and Ena Stanley, were elected to serve on the activities sub-committee. Margaret Storr was also appointed secretary and a member of the welfare committee.

The Rev. Pearmain, who was formerly chaplain at Coombe Farm Centre for Spastics, Croydon, was elected vice-chairman. Apart from the formation of the group, the meeting also included the presentation of a Chairmobile by Mike Venables to Mrs. Mary Panter, whose eight-year-old twins, Mike and Paul, are both suffering from muscular dystrophy. Spastics Pool collectors raised half the £113 cost of the Chairmobile, and there is already a move to raise enough to purchase a further chair.

Picture, below, shows from left to right, Margaret Storr, George Storr, Mike Venables, Mary Panter, and Barry Mellor, treasurer of the Louth spastics group.



who sent in money they had collected among their friends.

I had one lovely surprise—a beautifully painted very life-like Boppo portrait, sent by 10-year-old Mandy Overton of Henley. Mandy is the youngest of eight children, and her mother, who unfortunately is an invalid, says that Mandy helps her such a lot. I'm very thrilled with my picture and have hung it on the wall of my den.

I've been busy signing copies of my book which is being sold to help spastics and thinking up new adventures for the future. I also travelled to Cardiff to help to present some of the prizes at the National Spastics Games

which were held there recently. My paws have now recovered from my trot around the flight deck of HMS Hermes last month with the children who did a sponsored walk to help the Trengweath Spastic Centre, and I'm now ready for action again.

I'm getting lots of requests to attend various events being held to raise money for charity. If you have a big event being organised in your area, let me know and I'll see if I can look in.

Don't forget to tell your friends about Boppo's Club and get them to join. We'd love to hear from them; write to me, Boppo, Westmorland House, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS99 7QX.

## '62 Club visits Bristol



THE '62 Club from the Falmouth spastics Group made a four-day visit to Bristol recently. Arrangements were made through Top Ten Travel and the whirlwind tour included visits to the Longleat Safari Park and Cheddar Gorge.

Of course, the party spent the best part of one day at Westmorland House to see at first hand how the country's largest charity pool is operated. The collectors in the group were not forgotten and George Abbott, organiser of Collectors' Club, supported by the Top Ten team, challenged the visitors to a skittles match at a well-known local inn.

Ted Bartlett of Top Ten Travel was able to arrange an all-inclusive price for the four-day tour, and the party stayed at the Grand Spa Hotel, Bristol, which has a panoramic view of the famous Avon Gorge and the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

Picture above, shows the

'62 Club party which includes, second from the left, George Abbott, and fourth from the left, collector Mr. William White on the terrace of the Grand Spa Hotel.

Picture below: Plenty of support for Mrs. Joan Cosgrove when she received her Vauxhall Viva car at a recent presentation from Derek Batey of Border Television.



## Society hopes to chop those toothless grins

ALONG with stumbling gait, poor speech and jerky hands, spastics often have another distressing and quite avoidable handicap—no teeth. In an effort to cut down on the number of toothless grins amongst spastics, The Spastics Society has joined with the Dental Unit of Guys Hospital in producing a booklet on dental care.

Called "A guide to the care of your child's mouth," it is clearly illustrated, colourfully represented and easily read.

Mr. Derek Lancaster Gaye, Assistant Director, Services, explained: "It's very different from the other books produced by the Society for parents. It's aimed at making an impact with pictures rather than words."

The pamphlet briefly describes how healthy teeth are formed, and then shows how tooth loss starts with dental decay and gum disease. Diagrams and photographs show parents the danger signs they should look out for, and stresses the necessity of correct nutrition, dental hygiene, and making friends with the dental surgeon.

The booklet is available from the Society at 30p, including postage.

A £2,000 Sunshine Coach has been presented by the Variety Club of Great Britain to Lanthorne House Spastics Centre, Broadstairs, Kent.

A house-to-house collection on behalf of Durham County Spastics Society raised £1,893.

## Joy's jumble marches on with May

FOR the last 18 years Joy's Jumble Sale has been a regular feature in East Grinstead. And in that time they have raised £3,015.

It all started in 1955 when Joy Dann of Redmay, Spring Meadow, East Grinstead decided to raise money for spastic children.

With the aid of her school friends she held jumble sales at her parent's home three times a year. Even after her marriage she continued the tradition. Then two years ago she moved to Jamaica with her husband and now has a two-month-old son, Jason.

But Joy's Jumble Sale is still going on. For now it is Joy's mother, Mrs. May Dann who organises the event and recently she was able to present donations totalling £350 to aid spastic children.

## Mrs. Wilson calls on VAC

MRS. Mary Wilson, wife of the Opposition leader, will pay an official visit to The Spastics Society's Visiting Aids Centre when this unique travelling exhibition of aids for the disabled visits Blackpool early this month.

The VAC will be sited on the Promenade at Blackpool opposite Lewis's store from October 1st to 9th, and will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mrs. Wilson, who has always taken a keen interest in the Society's work, will be in Blackpool to attend the annual Labour Party Conference, and she will take time off from politics to tour the exhibits in the VAC at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2nd.





A spastics shop at Haverfordwest, run by Mrs. Valerie Gau, Hon. Secretary of the Pembrokeshire Spastics Society, has been making a profit of nearly £100 a week.

As the Pembrokeshire Group does not have a centre or any major financial commitments, committee members have generously offered to hand over to the Welsh Regional Fund the annual proceeds of the shop.

Student Stephen Quill (21), of Chelmsford, uses a model to help design a chair for a patient with a rigid spine.

Picture by courtesy of the South Wales Echo

Greenwich Cablevision recently broadcast a trip by spastic children on the Woolwich Ferry and back.

## "Any old iron" answers to problems of mobility

THEME song of Roy Greening could well be "Any old iron?"—for any day of the week he is likely to be found mulling over a mound of rubbish and sifting through piles of scrap. But it is not to line his own pocket that he turns over rusty bed frames, discarded cookers and bits of old cars. It is to make the disabled independent, mobile and more comfortable, whatever their handicap. So an old wheelchair thrown on the heap is a real find.

Roy's quest for bits of old metal was told recently in the "South Wales Echo" by Derek Hooper. At the Glamorgan Polytechnic, Treforest, where 51-year-old Roy is a principal lecturer in mechanical engineering, students working for a variety of degrees and certificates find their studies laced with medical engineering.

Said Roy: "We don't get grants, we use Polytechnic facilities and scrounge bits of angle iron and mild steel or whatever, from local firms. We use these bits and pieces, put them together, and come up with individual answers to individual problems."

Some of those individual answers so far have

been a collapsible walking frame for a spastic child, a walking trolley for a thalidomide child with no arms but artificial legs, and a specially adapted bed for a spina bifida child.

Roy explained: "You see, to buy some of these appliances from a commercial undertaking would cost a small fortune. Our labour is free, the students enjoy the challenge, and we give the appliances away for nothing—in fact, it

doesn't cost the taxpayer a penny."

Roy is a member of the Welsh Council for the Disabled and first Chairman of South-East Wales REMAP—Rehabilitation Engineering Movement Advisory Panel. It is the first REMAP to be set up in Wales and is designed to provide engineering help for the disabled by being accessible to local doctors, social workers, societies for the handicapped, and hospitals.

Roy and his number two designer, Rex Horton, also aim to bring in other organisations with engineering facilities; schools with metalwork shops, industrial concerns, other polytechnics and university colleges.

"Social workers come to us, doctors come to us with seemingly insurmountable individual problems. If they go through all the official channels it takes such a long time," Roy said.

There are more requests for help than the two, with their 130 students working voluntarily, can handle.

And Roy has a special dream: a medical engineering centre at the Polytechnic dealing exclusively with problems of the sick and disabled.

## Dance-A-thon challenge



Now, take your partners for a dance - a - thon.

Huntingdon dancing instructor Jack Clark and his assistant Sylvia Higgins, pictured above, have issued a challenge to fellow ballroom enthusiasts with the aim of boosting funds for spastics.

The couple recently tripped their way through a two-hour marathon session which raised over £35 for the Peterborough Spastics Society.

Now Mr. Clark, who first became interested in the charity when a spastic child joined his school, wants to challenge other couples to a dancing marathon.

Picture by courtesy of Ron Bailey studios, Huntingdon.

## It was just an ordinary fete...

THE weather was cloudy, over-cast and looking like rain at any moment—in fact not very promising at all for the Coombe Farm Centre fete at Croydon.

However, despite the unfulfilled threat of a washout, the fete went on to raise a record total for Coombe Farm of £1,527.

A surprised Peter Lee, the Warden, said: "It was just an ordinary fete. We had about 40 stalls and sideshows with some entertainments like pony rides and a display by Police dogs but nothing extra special. There were well over 1,000 people and they were obviously spending well. All the staff worked very hard and pulled together."

"One reason that we were so successful might have been the extra interest generated by the Open Days we've held during the last two Spastics Weeks. People are more ready to come and support us. It was a great thrill to raise so much—next year we'll have to try for £2,000!"

Sir Edward Anderson, JP, has recently retired from office after 20 years as President of Teesside Spastics Society. He is succeeded by former Vice-President Mr. Philip Niman. Both Sir Edward and Mr. Niman were founder-members of Teesside group.

As a farewell gift, Sir Edward and Lady Anderson were presented with a

tray made in the Middlesbrough Spastics Work Shop.

Sir Edward is pictured (right) receiving the tray from Mr. Niman (left). Also in the picture are Mr. Arthur Hesletine, Group Chairman, and Mrs. Ann Beck, Hon. Secretary.

Picture by courtesy of Evening Gazette Middlesbrough



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AS MUCH!





An attractive card for the animal lovers—the Lion and the Lamb costs 30p. for six.



'Angelus' is a cheerful design from the contemporary range for 25p. per packet of six.



This graceful Madonna and Child is one of the range printed by spastics. A packet of six identical cards with envelopes costs 25p.

IT'S later than you think. There are only 70-odd more shopping days to Christmas, 1973. Now is the time to start thinking about that annual goodwill message to Joyce and Ron in Australia and to consider a really suitable yuletide gift for Auntie Flo who does not want



Chirpy robins on a vivid purple background sell at 25p for a packet of six.

## Cards with a helpful message

yet another woolly scarf bought in last-minute desperation.

The 1973 catalogue from Spastics Cards Ltd. has plenty of ideas to make the choice easier. This year for the first time, the gift selection has been extended to include food hampers. Branded ingredients are packed in a festive carton which can be sent direct to the recipient. Seven different hampers are available, covering a price range from the gourmet-style 'Squire's Selection' at £12 to the 'Old Tyme Selection' specially devised for elderly couples at £2—£5.

In addition to the hampers, Spastics Cards are offering a wide variety of cards, station-

ery, children's books, toys, household gifts, framed prints and jewellery, including rings and pendants made by spastics.

Disabled people have contributed too on the Christmas card side and many of this year's designs were once again printed by spastics.

The cards reproduced here are just a few of the many designs available. Details of the entire range of cards and gifts are printed in the new gifts catalogue which can be obtained from Spastics Cards Ltd., the Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks. Order-forms and information about hampers are contained in a separate leaflet available from the same address.



An unusual Fine Art reproduction is Mehkek's "Gipsies in Winter". Each card costs 12p.

## How will spastics face the complex future?

Robinson, M.B.E., Trustee of PHAB.

Guest of honour at the conference dinner was Mr. David Holdsworth, Chief Constable of the Thames Valley Constabulary, whose police cadets have provided sterling help to '62 Club members at various functions over many years.

The Association of '62 Clubs was founded 11 years ago to help the handicapped towards more independence. It is a self-governing body sponsored and largely financed by The Spastics Society.

For some of the overseas delegates, it was their first trip abroad. So the Association laid on for them a special £45 week's package tour to include favourite tourist haunts as well as the conference itself and a tour of some of the Society's schools and centres.

A full report of the Conference, with pictures, will appear in Spastics News next month.

THE DISABLEMENT Income Group has asked us to inform readers that there are cottages available in Spain specially adapted for the disabled. These are situated near Altea in the province of Alicante. Properties are for sale or rent, furnished or unfurnished, on a rural site with swimming pool and lovely views. For further details please contact Mrs. H. Jimenez, 7, Gledhow Gardens, London, S.W.5. Tel. 01-373. 9237.

## Newtowners gave 5p a family

NEWTOWNERS in Hemel Hempstead are very generous people — or at least that is how it appears to the Hemel Hempstead and District Group of The Spastics Society who have just raised £1,136 in a door-to-door collection.

Local volunteers were told that a maximum of £800 would be a good figure since this was the first collection in the area. Collectors were therefore agreeably surprised when they saw the final collection total.

Total population of Hemel Hempstead is 65,000, but many of these are children or old age pensioners. Yet The Spastics Society gained 5p from every family in the town, which is a high average.

Next stop will be Berkhamsted, where local collectors will be out visiting the 1,600 residents in the near future.

A spokesman for The Spastics Society said: "We were very encouraged by these figures and are sure that the residents of historic Berkhamsted will prove just as generous as their new neighbours."

## BOURNEMOUTH, POOLE & DISTRICT SPASTICS SOCIETY'S NEW HOME AT EDWARD HOUSE, TALBOT DRIVE, PARKSTONE, POOLE, DORSET

The Society wish to make the following appointments at this new home, which is of a pioneering nature and which will provide some 14 residential places for adults suffering from cerebral palsy, the majority of whom will also have some mental handicap.

1. OFFICER IN CHARGE at a salary within the range £1,845-£2,088 p.a. Possession of the Certificate in Residential Social Work will be an advantage, and candidates should have had experience of working in a senior capacity in residential care.

2. DEPUTY TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE at a salary within the range £1,479-£1,689 p.a. It is expected that the successful applicant will hold a nursing qualification. Man and wife would be considered.

Two self-contained, 2-bedroomed flats are available. Either appointment may be non-residential, but in this event there will be a sleeping-in commitment as necessary. Emolument charges for resident staff will be based on local authority rates. Salary scale for both posts under review.

Application forms available from Mrs. O. M. Nelson, Group Secretary, Langside School, Langside Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 5BN.

## Prisoners help Daresbury Hall

A HORSE show held at Appleton Thorn Open Prison raised more than £150 for Daresbury Hall, the Society's residential centre for adult spastics near Warrington, Lancashire.

This is an annual event organised by prisoners and staff at Appleton Thorn on behalf of Daresbury Hall, which is a near neighbour. Attended by riders from all over Lancashire, Cheshire, North Wales and North Staffordshire, the show has helped to cement good relations between the prison staff and the local community.

Daresbury Hall residents were among the 1,000-plus visitors to the show this year. Proceeds will be paid into the centre's general recreation fund.



# Spastics News goes to Press



Thousands of copies of Spastics News thunder off the giant presses at the Bristol Evening Post where the paper is printed each month, and Mr. J. Stanley looks through one of the first copies to run off the machine. If he did find (heaven forbid!) a picture upside down or a large unintentional white space, he would stop the machine, and the story of Spastics News going to Press, which is light-heartedly told in words and pictures below, would begin all over again... In such an event the Editor would be honour bound to commit hari-kari.

## Fast going keeps the news hot (literally!)

**PRODUCING** a newspaper is rather like banging your head against a brick wall. Exciting, stimulating... but marvellous when you stop.

Every newspaper goes to Press in a tearing hurry; they always have, and they always will, because whether it is for the Times, the Daily Mirror, or Spastics News, the best news always comes in at the last moment. So in every newspaper office in the world, printers look anxiously at their watches, while journalists scurry about saying that this or that story **MUST** appear on the front page.

On the face of it, there should be no last minute panic in producing Spastics

News. It is a monthly, after all, and there are four weeks to bring the newspaper to the final stages which you see pictured here. Indeed, the Editor could fill the paper easily by week No. 3—there is no shortage of material, heaven knows—but come week No. 4, the office is bustling with ideas and stories which it is clear must appear in pictures and print. The Editor either decides to ignore them (and there is no point in being a journalist if you take that course), or to squeeze them into the paper at the last minute. Hence the hectic rush which leads up to the moment when the paper starts printing, and the Editor decides that there are easier ways of making a living.

First steps in producing the newspaper you are reading

now is to find the stories, pictures and feature articles which appear in it. The active, lively Spastics Society generates a lot of these from headquarters with its newsworthy activities, plans for interesting new developments to help the handicapped, and its commendable, aggressive attitude on behalf of the disabled against any forces which refuse to meet just demands for a fair deal. Then there are the spastics themselves who, as you can see from this and any other issue, seem to make up in courage and initiative what they lack in physical skills. Then there are the voluntary workers, full of ideas and enthusiasm, and generating news stories by the score.

The material is written, the pictures are taken, and then comes the fascinating, mechanical processes which translate them into the printed paper you are holding.

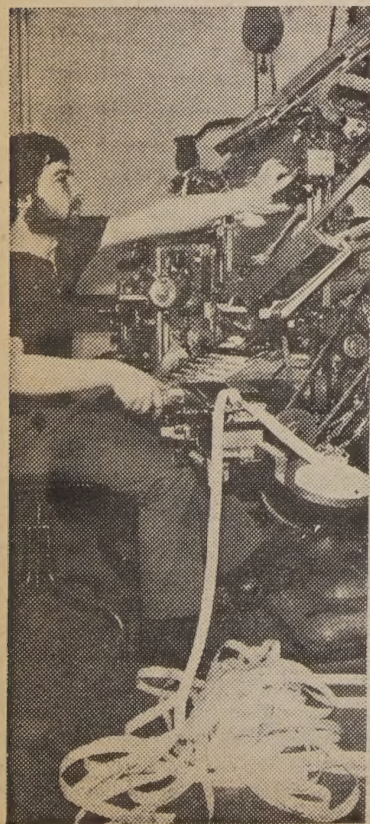
Any text book of the printing industry would tell you about the technical details of type-setting, block making, and what have you; it is more difficult to conjure up the atmosphere of a printing works where the special comradeship of newspaper people flourishes. There is a special language for the people "in print," and a set of entrenched attitudes which go back to the days of Caxton. Journalists, for instance, think that the process men are, by their insistence on "going to Press" schedules intent on keeping the latest news out of the paper; printers think journalists are a feckless lot who don't start writing the copy to fill the columns until the very last minute and are only waiting until the last forme is locked up and leaving the stone (there's a snatch of print jargon for you) to find a new front page lead story.

Then there are the readers, very learned people given to scanning Dante in the original during their lunch breaks, whose job it is to check the "copy" for mistakes. They read millions of words a year and can spot an error a mile off. They soon decide that journalists have the haziest ideas of spelling, syntax and punctuation, and delight in telling them so. Mind you, no reader worthy of the name would do this in a straightforward way by saying, for instance, "Ludlow is not in Herefordshire, it's in Shropshire." The approach would be thus:

"So it's moved, then?"  
"What has?" replies unwary young reporter.  
"Ludlow was last seen crossing county border," replies reader.

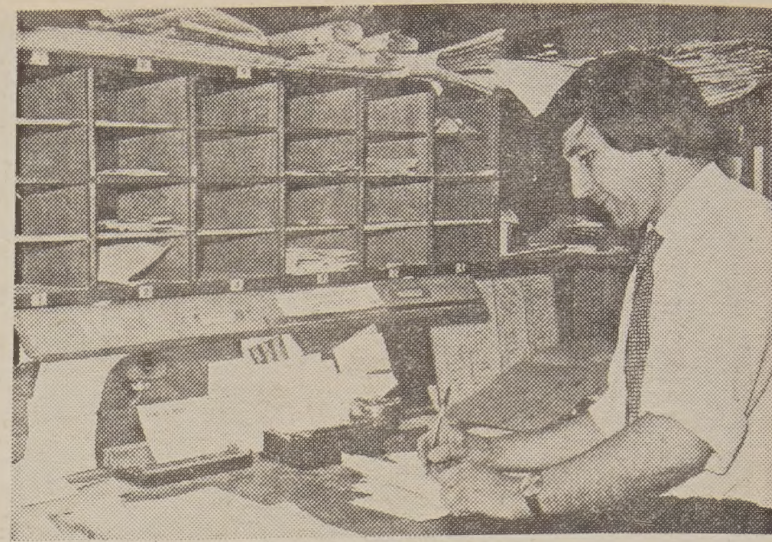
Meanwhile, the readers are checking through the proofs of the type for mistakes, and pictured working on Spastics News are Ray Philpott, Doris Wharton, Reg Dyer and Jean Young. By virtue of their work, all readers become brainboxes of information (more about them in the article), but they all have one foible—they love seaside postcards of the more outrageous kind. It would be rare to find a readers' dept. without a prized collection, so our photographer brushed aside the objections of the ladies and gentlemen in the picture and, for reasons of authenticity, part of their collection is shown in the background!

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There are two ways of setting the type for Spastics News, either by computer or by the manually operated linotype machine. Picture above shows Cyril Williams, the Photo-composition Manager, with Roger Thompson, who is operating a Photon Pacesetter. The words which he is tapping out are changed into a series of dots on the festoons of tape which you see in the picture, left. Once the tape is in the machine, automation takes over and the keyboard operates itself. Looking after the mechanical monster in the picture is bearded Colin Roberts.

Here is a picture, right, which must be familiar to anyone who has ever seen a film about newspapers — the linotype machine with the operator typing out the hot news. The



First steps in producing a newspaper is to obtain your words and pics to fill it. When the stories and the headlines have been written they arrive on the overseer's desk which stands like an island of calm in the midst of the noise and clatter of the printing work. Here, Dave Trego (Deputy Overseer) decides which of the linotype operators shall have the pleasure of transforming words for Spastics News into type.

plies reader. "These county towns do get about, don't they?"

Then there are the compositors who "make up" the pages, which means they follow the layout prepared by the Editor which shows where each story, headline and picture should be placed. There is no leeway here, the lines of type, the pictures, and the page itself are all metal, so everything has to fit to the millimetre. Just one line of type over is too much, and we all wish for compressible rubber type when our choicest phrases have to be chopped at the last minute.

All these specialists at the printing craft come together to bring you your Spastics News each month, presided over in the Composing Room which is where the action is in a printing works by the Overseer, Percy Edgington, who unfortunately was on holiday when the pictures were taken. It's rather like Hamlet without the Prince to tell the story without him.

Percy's aim in life is to see the word "Go" chalked on each metal page of the paper at the proper time, but because he cares about the quality of Spastics News and the other papers which go through his hands each month, he and his team can perform prodigious feats of speed when THE story which **MUST** appear arrives, when the chalk is actually poised ready to send the last page on its final journey to the presses. Then only minutes can elapse from the time a story arrives via the telephone and it is dropped into the page, set in type, headlined, corrected, and ready for you to read. If newspaper people didn't strive to do this, newspapers would be so dull, you wouldn't bother to buy them, so there is method in our speedy madness.

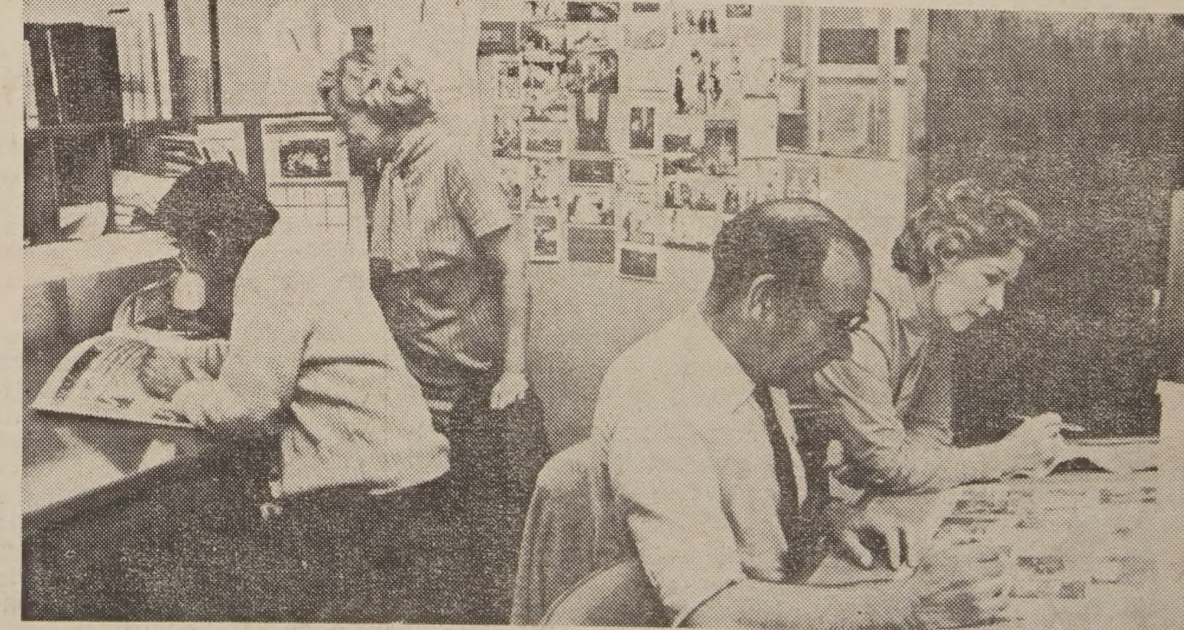
But why is it our fate that everything happens at the last minute? One day a spastic will probably climb Mount Everest. He is sure to do it just minutes before Spastics News goes to Press...



The headlines which appear in Spastics News are written by the Editor, and then they go to the compositor who delicately picks out each separate letter from the racks of different styles of type which are available. The aim of the headline writer is to fit as much as possible into the space available, and squeezed or expanded, there is no alternative. It's rather like Hamlet without the Prince to tell the story without him.



When the pictures have been made into type, they come together to form a double page. The Editor prepares the "lay-out" of each story its place on the pages, and he has to see if the jigsaw can be completed with the pieces left over! Looking doubtful about it all is the Editor, who is sure to do it just minutes before Spastics News goes to Press...



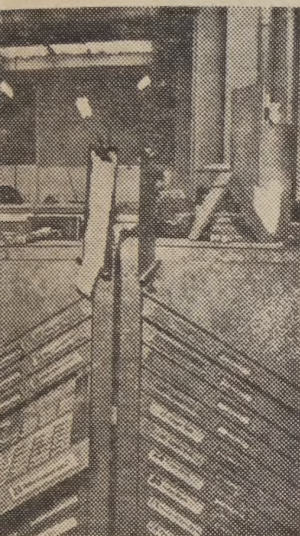
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Last step in producing the first copy of the newspaper, the compositor is shown in the background!





is what a double page of Spastics News looks like when being "made up." All the words and headlines are laid down or back to front (hold this page up to a mirror and you will see what we mean), and many an innocent trainee printer has been conned by mischievous printers into believing the only way to read type is to stand on his head!



Spastics News are first sent to John Bennett, who writes for the words from which surround him in the office. It is to get as many words as possible and as metal cannot be used, alternative but to think and write the right number of letters and will fit the column.



into blocks and the words are laid together to make up each page. "Layout" or design, giving the page a look here watches anxiously with no gaps and no bits. It is Mike Gardener, whose job it is to make the pages.



One of the first steps in the production of any newspaper is the important 'reader reaction.' One of the first copies off the presses goes to the offices of Top Ten Promotions in Bristol, where naturally the first of all turn to the "Splashes from the Spastics Pool" page. Pictured seated from left to right are George Abbott, Organiser, Collectors Club; Kenneth Long, Managing Director, Top Ten Promotions. Standing from left to right are Lynn Johnson, Director, Top Ten Promotions. Standing from left to right are Lynn Johnson, John Pritchard, and Jill Learner from the Public Relations Department.

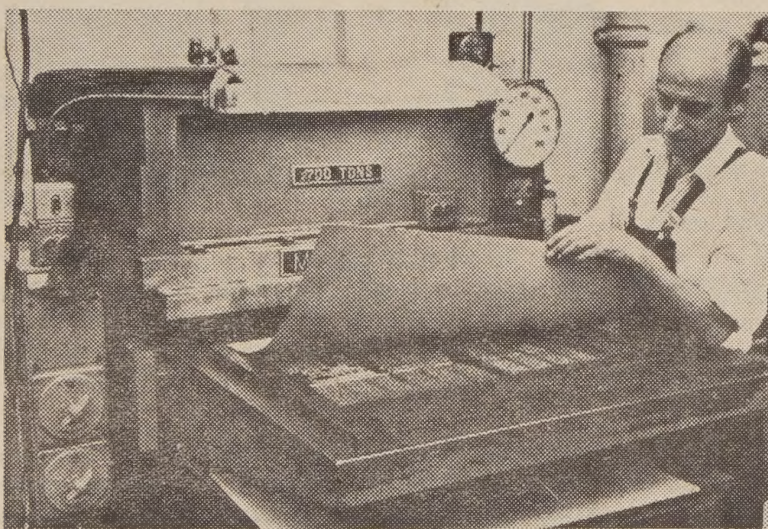
## It makes you think

The following letter was published in the Daily Telegraph in September: Sir — In a supermarket an official of a charity came to empty a collection box. This had as its appeal a representation of a dog with a puppy and yielded £39.

A collection box almost alongside for the benefit of spastic children yielded £2. Both boxes had remained unopened for the same length of time. ALEC WILSON, Yorks.



The page is complete and now the Editor looks critically at the proof and for the first time can see the words and pictures the right way up. Standing on their side of the fence ready to correct any mistakes or make any frantic last minute changes, are R. Sperring and M. Gardener, two "printers devils" (apprentices).



Spastics News is now almost ready to print. All the corrections have been made, the last minute news squeezed in, and now the pages go to Gordon Styles, the stereotyper, who makes a mould by a process of heat and pressure, from which a metal printing plate is cast. Then the metal cylinders will go on to the presses at Bristol, the button will be pushed, and a roll of paper will go in at one end and come out the other as a printed and neatly folded complete issue.

# Homely feeling lingers on at Fitzroy Square

SOME fascinating historical details have come to light about numbers 16, 17 and 18, Fitzroy Square, London, which now house The Spastics Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre.

The building was mentioned in two articles published by "The Hospital" journal for 10th and 17th January, 1903. The first of these describes how the three houses had been converted into a hospital opened in 1880 by the Home Hospitals Association for Paying Patients.

## Medical care

The aim of this organisation was to provide up-to-date medical care for middle-class patients who could afford to pay for it. This appears to have been quite a novel idea even in those days, for free medicine is not entirely an invention of the mid-20th century, and Victorian London was well served by earlier charitable endowments, the old-established teaching hospitals.

However, Fitzroy House, as it was then called, did not set out to make a vast profit. Patients were attended by their own doctors, to whom they paid the usual fees independently of the home and were charged only a modest sum to cover the cost of accommodation. When extensive renovations were needed, 20 years after the hospital first opened, the £10,000 costs had to be raised by voluntary contributions.

Improvements included a new operating theatre and the installation of electricity, which meant that quite sophisticated equipment could now be used, such as passenger and service lifts, sterilisers on

every floor and apparatus for keeping food warm on its journey from the kitchen.

The newly renovated building was officially opened on the 9th January, 1903, by the Duke of Northumberland. Two days before, "The Hospital" had published a glowing description of Fitzroy House, ending with the words "... everything best calculated to encourage the feeling that Fitzroy House must indeed prove a home to all who enter it."

Miss M. R. Morgan, Head of the Society's Social Work and Employment Department, which now occupies Fitzroy House, points out that this philosophy is equally relevant today.

Despite several changes of ownership during 70 years, the building's welcoming "homely" quality is as strong now as ever it was in 1903.

"Many present-day visitors comment on the atmosphere as soon as they enter the door," said Miss Morgan. "I am sure that the planners and the lady superintendent in 1973 contributed a great deal to this 'feeling' about the whole building."

## Do you write with humour?

PEN friends are required for Kevin Quain, a 22-year-old spastic who is an ex-student of the Society's Wilfred Pickles School and of the Lancaster Training Centre.

His interests include writing letters, listening to records and watching football, cricket and motor racing.

He says that he will reply to anybody who would like to write to him regardless of tastes or interests as long as the person concerned has a sense of humour and enjoys writing.

Please write to:— Kevin Quain, 63, East Hills Road, Costessey Norwich, Norfolk, NOR 43K.

# Space talk helps solve spastics speech problems

A LONG with blast-offs from Houston, the U.S. space programme looks like giving a lift-off to spastics with speech problems.

For research scientists developed a little black box to remove voice distortion and background noise from messages transmitted between spaceships and mission control. And it did not take long for medical researchers in their turn to spot the possibilities of the device for patients with severe brain disorders that distorted their speech.

The first step is to make a special type of record of the patient's voice. A similar record is then made by someone with normal speech saying the same thing. The machine will from then on make the necessary corrections for all the defects of the patient's speech. Unwanted sounds are completely eliminated, wrongly formed vowels and consonants are corrected.

The success of this technique was dramatically shown when it was used for a 10-year-old spastic boy in an institution for the mentally retarded.

The boy's own speech was quite unintelligible, but with the aid of the "unscrambling" device it was found that he not only could be understood quite clearly, but, far from being retarded, was of above average intelligence.

# There are medicines at the bottom of the garden

NEXT time you cut a finger, get an ear-ache, or twinge with rheumatism, you could ignore the medicine chest and head instead for the kitchen cupboard. For Mrs. Mary Roussos, the caterer at The Spastics Society's Sherrard's Training Centre, Welwyn, Herts., has come up with some fascinating medicinal recipes.

She is collecting a book of favourite recipes for fund-raising, but unfortunately has no room to include these exotic remedies for mundane ailments which were sent in.

## In the pantry

Some of the ingredients are already in the average pantry, while others will require a few woodland walks or rambles through the cornfields, such as the "pain killer" below.

### For the relief of facial pains

Gather poppy seeds and place on a pad of cottonwool. Cover seeds with flour and place flour-side up in a hot oven to warm thoroughly, and until flour turns brown.

Remove from the oven, place a clean handkerchief over floury side of pad, and apply to face like a mask. Keep on the face until all heat has left the pad.

From Mrs. E. Hill, Welwyn, Herts.

### For the relief of hiccoughs

Onto a teaspoonful of white sugar drip sufficient vinegar to change the colour of the sugar and swallow slowly. (Anon.).

## Aches and pains

### For the relief of earache

Place common salt on a flannel pad and place in the oven to warm. Place close to the ear for earache, or at the nape of the neck or on the forehead for headaches.

Mrs. Sullivan, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex, contributed the above and following "cures":

### To stop heavy bleeding on cuts

Shake pepper liberally onto the cut finger.

### Parsley tea to relieve kidney and bladder conditions

Take a handful of fresh parsley and cover with cold water. Boil steadily for half an hour, strain. May be drunk hot or cold.

### A good tonic—Raspberry leaf tea.

Take a handful of raspberry leaves and cover with cold water. Boil for half an hour, strain, and drink hot or cold.

### Relief for tired feet and rheumatism

Where a poultice is called for, to relieve swelling or to reduce inflammation or for quinsy of the throat, the following vinegar poultice is found to help. Place a slice of toast in a pan of BOILING vinegar, take out after a few seconds, and place in a clean cloth. Wring out surplus fluid and place on affected part of the body.

## A rub with garlic

### Whooping Cough and Bronchitis

To relieve congestion, rub garlic on the soles of the feet. It really works.

Some might think the cure worse than the ailment, but with the big drug houses and the Government arguing over the cost of drugs, it is rather nice to know that there is free medicine growing at the bottom of the garden.

**Wary footnote:** Your doctor might have something to say about the ancient remedies! Please ask his advice first before you attempt home medicine.



## They celebrate past service—and look to future

NOT even the torrential rainstorms which broke the South East's summer drought could dampen a V.I.P. event on September 15. For it was a very important party — the 21st birthday celebrations of the Croydon and District Spastics Society.

Nearly 300 guests were invited to mark the occasion — they included founder members, parents, staff and spastics from the surrounding areas.

As Mr. Donald Funge-Smith, the Chairman, pointed out in his speech of welcome: "In one way there are no guests of honour — in another you are all guests of honour."

Among the founder members who were at the party were Mr. and Mrs. John Holdham and Mr. Fred Holley.

Mr. Holdham was the group's first secretary, and Mr. Holley the first

treasurer, a post Mr. Holdham held as well at first. Mr. Holdham recalled the start of a treatment centre — the first of its kind for spastic children — in two rooms loaned to them. "From then on it's just grown — like Topsy!" he said. And Mr. Holley added: "Twenty-one years has rolled by very quickly."

Miss Ruth Garwood, sister of the late Jean Garwood, a founder member of the Spastics Society, who devoted her life to working for spastics, said: "We never envisaged it would be like this. Now we must work to make the next 21 years even better. Everyone — parents, friends and staff — have always worked together, and the Society is its members."

### For spastics

A dinner was held at the Bramley Hill centre the previous night for spastics unable to attend the party, but two who were there were Wilf and Avril Ward, who celebrate their second wedding anniversary this month. They live in a tower block flat and Avril works each day at the centre.

In his speech, Mr. William Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, paid tribute to Jean Garwood with the words: "Jean WAS Croydon."

He spoke of the hostel for 12 spastics which is to be built in her memory, and added: "The real and lasting memorial to Jean is that, despite her death, Croydon's services to spastics have continued to expand and improve, and



Indefatigable worker Mr. John Jacobs, brother of T.V. personality David, chats with two others, Miss Ruth Garwood and The Spastics Society's Chairman, Mr. William Burn.



Bert Strudwick provides a comfy seat for Sheila Tran with her husband, Alex, and daughter, Annette's approval. Mr. Tran is the Croydon and District Spastics Society's "ideas" man and originator of their big money-raiser, the Mini-draw.

It might have been pouring with rain outside, but nothing dampened the party spirit. Standing are Mr. Donald Funge-Smith, Group Chairman, Rita and John Jacobs, John Eve, the Group Press Officer, and Mrs. William Burn. Seated are Pat Dixie, John Prasher and Julie Moorey. John's daughter, Rosalind Eve, has her back to the camera.



One of the youngest party-goers, Susie Butcher, from the Bramley Hill Works Centre. On Susie's right are her mother, Mrs. Yvonne Butcher, Mrs. Margaret Hutchinson, the cook since 1953, Susie's father, Mr. Stan Butcher, with Mrs. Joyce Wellstead on her left.

## Good fare for October

AS soon as the days grow shorter, the mornings mistier and the evenings chillier, housewives turn away from cold meats and salads and prepare stews, soups, puddings and pies. There is an increased demand for root vegetables and the slow-cooking cuts of meat. None of this change in diet presents any shopping problems. In October there is a rich variety of home-grown produce from which to choose and the quality is high.

Among the vegetables certain to be in demand are potatoes, onions, leeks, carrots and parsnips. Potatoes are larger, now, many just right, in fact, for serving baked in their jackets with a generous lump of British butter. A potato cooked this way almost makes a complete meal in itself, and, topped with a poached egg, or grated cheese, it is substantial fare.

Avoid buying potatoes that have turned green or look damaged. Choose onions that are firm-looking with feathery skins and leeks that have fresh green tops. It is not likely that parsnips will be anything but first-rate at this time of year. However, avoid samples that have obviously been in the shop over-long or that have brown

patches on the shoulders.

The fresher green vegetables are, the better they are for you, and there is less waste to them. It is best to buy Brussels sprouts that are about the same size as each other. Look for



Bacon, egg and herb pie.

tight specimen free from yellowing outside leaves. The very small sprouts are usually a little more expensive than the others.

Home-grown fruit is mostly apples and pears. However, there is a choice when it comes to varieties, and those famous

Cox's Orange Pippins — surely the best known apples in the world — are with us once more. Keep apples in a cool place if they are not going to be eaten quickly.

Eggs are easy to get and so handy in the kitchen it would be difficult to manage without them. Not only are they useful for breakfast dishes, for classic recipes and so on, they can prove a boon when funds are short.

Here is an economical recipe that can be served hot or cold, for supper, at mid-day, for a snack or whenever you feel like it:

### BACON, EGG AND HERB PIE (serves 4-6)

8 oz. shortcrust pastry  
4 back rashers British or Ulster bacon  
4 British eggs  
2 teaspoons chopped parsley  
½ teaspoon mixed herbs  
Salt and black pepper

Line a flan ring with half the pastry. De-rind and chop bacon. Mix with parsley and herbs. Beat eggs, add to the bacon mixture and pour into the pastry case. Season, cover with pastry lid. Bake at 425°F, Mark 7, for 10 minutes, reduce heat to 375°F, Mark 5, and cook for a further 20-25 minutes.



Founder members Mrs. Pat Holdham, Mr. Fred Holley and Mr. John Holdham, have a word with Wilfred and Avril Ward, who celebrate their second wedding anniversary this month.



# Conversation without words as Rupert and Richard bridge the handicap barrier

**RICHARD Gomm** is a 20-year-old student who lives with his family in Ewell, Surrey. I am 18, and about to go up to Cambridge. Richard has just had a much-praised collection of his poems published in a "slim volume" by the Mitre Press entitled "The Seasons of my Life." This book presents a fascinating verse cycle which matches the progress of a love affair to the progress of the natural year. It has just gone into its second impression.

But the real difference between myself and Richard—apart from his publishing success—is that he is a severely handicapped spastic who can neither speak, walk, nor move his arms. Before interviewing him for Spastic News, I was worried as to how I would manage. None of my friends are handicapped, and I had always sympathised only from a distance. Would I find someone who lived in a world apart, whose feelings could not be fathomed?

I need have had no fears. Richard communicates with great fluency by pointing at words and letters on a board with a rod, strapped to his forehead. His career is, to date, a series of triumphs. He was this year's winner of the Male Poetry Section in the Literary Contest for Spastics, and in September he started at the local technical college, having taken English 'A' level this summer at The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School. In an amazingly short period of time we had established easy contact.

We could have been any two students talking in the common room or a coffee bar.

## Education

When I saw him he was apprehensively waiting for the 'A' level result. Having been through the same process myself last year, we compared experiences. He claimed that he had probably failed. But somehow I don't think he has. Anyway, whatever the outcome, he will continue his education. Such is his thirst and energy to learn that he wishes the "tech" would allow him to take two more 'A' levels than just the one he is taking, sociology.

Eventually, he hopes for a University place, ideally at York, where he has friends. What would he like to study there? "English probably, or Law perhaps, but that's just a thought."

His aim at the moment is to widen his outlook, and he thinks he will become more involved with the social issues of the day Poverty and pollution worry him most.

But Richard cannot keep off the subject of literature for long and, as I myself share the same interest, we discussed it keenly.

I was curious to know whether the process of creative writing was significantly different for a spastic? What emerges in Richard's case is the surprising similarity between him and his able-bodied contemporaries, although his situation would at first seem so utterly removed from theirs, physically limited as he is.

He has been writing poetry

ably got something to do with it."

I remembered various great, but disabled, writers—Proust, D. H. Lawrence, Milton, Collette, even Dr. Johnson or Byron (both these last probably mildly spastic)—and that they rarely used their handicaps as primary subject matter for their writing. Richard seems to stand in that tradition.

He did, however, show me a poem that he had written six years ago which ends with this line, "I thank Thee, Lord, even though I am crippled."

I found such sentiments very different from the more recent poems, which might be described rather as miniature paintings, with all the precision and fineness of detail that this involves. None are more than about 50 words long. All are clear, restrained, yet shot through with melancholy. Some experiment with form, over which Richard takes great care. He constantly revises and re-writes, and he asserts emphatically: "I do not consider anything finished until I have found an exact answer to what I have to say."

He wants now to broaden his artistic scope. A further col-

since the age of six. I wondered how much he now wrote, and how often? "It depends," he said, "when the inspiration comes. I don't just sit down and knock off a poem." Nevertheless he is prolific, and the well organised files on his shelf are proof of this.

## Painting

"I chose poetry in particular because it best expresses my feelings, but I also paint and I write prose," he told me.

I asked whether he ever wrote about his handicaps, and I said that one could not presume this from "Seasons of My Life." He disagreed "The handicap is implicit if you look carefully," he said. And added, ruefully, "The fact that I didn't get the girl has prob-



Richard Gomm and Rupert Christiansen. Two students with many interests in common. The difference is that Rupert, who wrote the penetrating article about his meeting with Richard, is able-bodied. Richard is a severely handicapped spastic.

lection of poems is in the offing which could, he thinks, "be said to carry on from where 'Seasons of my Life' left off." The novel also attracts him, and he has a plan to write one about a schizophrenic.

## Lyrical

Most people have preferences for particular types of poetry and for particular poets, and he likes most of all descriptive poetry—that of Keats and Walt Whitman, the American poet, especially, but he finds a lot of Wordsworth mawkish. I asked him what he thought of the more radical offshoots of modern verse and its techniques. "It interests me, but I would never write like that," he said.

Among living poets he admires Roy Fuller and Rod Mc-

Kuen. But the basis and shape of Richard's poetry is very much the product of his intensive reading of Chinese verse, the delicate and lyrical perfection of which he consciously emulates. Here is an example, a poem called "Gazelle":

I glided along the freeway  
Away from the grey city  
Of concrete cubes.  
A gazelle—free  
The tyres ate up the asphalt  
Until shimmering sea  
And hot golden sand  
Surrounded me—refreshing.

When so much of modern poetry is obsessed with images of violence and wrapped in obscurity, Richard's style shows a welcome independence of approach, for its simplicity seems to go straight to the heart of the matter.

It deals with the emptiness of a loveless life, loneliness, happiness, peace, freedom, nature and, indeed, all the themes which could concern every sensitive young person. And this is the measure of his verse's real quality: it tands absolutely on its own merits and no one need make any concessions for his handicaps.

But there is still more to Richard, and his room is evidence of a whole range of interests. A large chess board sits next to a cabinet bulging with gramophone records of all types of music from Bach to Joni Mitchell, and other Protest singers. Another impressive piece of equipment is a large typewriter which, of course, is quite invaluable to him as a means of communication. He reads much about Eastern religions and feels great sympathy with Zen Buddhism. He likes going to the cinema, and we had both recently enjoyed "The Go-between" and Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Juliet."

I had expected someone who would require special consideration and a special way of thinking. But I soon realised that we were on the same wavelength. My interests were his interests, my friends would be his, too. Despite being tied to a wheelchair he radiates joie de vivre. No one could leave his presence without feeling heartened and sobered by his resilience and determination.

Richard's personality and achievements smash that all-too-common notion that the severely disabled can be written off as second rate citizens with nothing to offer society. His victories can only give us all inspiration.

Rupert Christiansen

## Visit a museum for 5p

WHEN the proposed new museum charges come into force on January 1st, 1974, there will be a small crumb of hope for the disabled. Along with children under 16 and pensioners, they will be admitted at a reduced rate of 5p at all times. Season tickets will be available to pensioners and registered handicapped persons. These will be valid for one year and will cost 50p. People who are helping registered handicapped persons will be admitted free of charge.

## —and fish for free

A SMALL section of the River Lee at Dobbs Weir, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, has recently been reserved exclusively for use by disabled anglers, free of charge.

This is the result of negotiations by the Lee Valley Anglers Consultative Association with the Regional Park Authority and they hope that this example will encourage other water authorities throughout the country to follow in their wake.

Season permits and keys allowing access to the River Lee Fishery are available from: Mr. F. A. French, 19, Oxford Close, Cheshunt, Herts.

## Study Group discusses youthful maturity

"TOWARDS Maturity" was the theme for a Study Group which met at University College, Oxford, from Thursday, 13th September, to Sunday, 16th September, to discuss this very important subject. There were 34 participants including the Heads of a number of Colleges of Further Education for the Handicapped, and Society staff. There were also representatives of ordinary Further Education Colleges where there were special facilities for the handicapped. The problems of the blind and the deaf were also included in the discussions.

The Study Group devoted most of its time to the problems of further education and, in particular, the inadequacy of present services. Unavoidably the discussions spread out to cover almost all the problems of the handicapped adolescent. Perhaps the most important conclusion was the urgent need for further education to receive far greater attention than it does at present.

School facilities have improved greatly over the last 20 years, partly as a result of the Society's work in the field of special education. It is, however, an undeniable fact that after years of satisfactory schooling large numbers of handicapped people are thrown into adult life without any real prospect of open employment or any supportive services.

The Study Group was organised by Mrs. Anita Loring.

# The MIND Campaign

by Rt. Hon. David Ennals,  
its Director

THE most obvious impact of the MIND Campaign, launched by the National Association for Mental Health in 1971, has been that MIND has become the new "brand name" of the Association. But that is but the outward symbol of a radical development in the scale and pace of our work for the mentally disordered—for their families and for those at risk in the community. Let me try to pin-point some of our achievements.

## A place to live

In the third of our new MIND Reports in October, 1971, we highlighted the acute shortage of residential accommodation and support services provided by local authorities, and awoke the nation to the fact that about 10,000 men and women were occupying beds in mental illness hospitals who no longer needed medical and nursing attention and ought to be discharged into suitable accommodation in the community.

Apart from urging the D.H.S.S. and the Local Authorities to step up their provision of homes and hostels, our

local associations have shown the way. So far our local associations have opened 62 group homes and hostels, thus enabling almost a thousand patients to be brought back into the community, sometimes after 30 or 40 years of life in mental hospital wards. There are another 46 group homes in the planning stages.

## A job to do

MIND Report 8 was entitled "Jobs—but not for the Disabled." We have kept closely in touch with the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of Employment, through a working party on rehabilitation and employment. In 1973, MIND took a further initiative—the establishment of a joint working party with the Federation of Personnel Services to work out ways of involving private employment agencies, and the employers through whom they work, in easing the employment problems of those who have had psychiatric treatment, and now find this fact an obstacle to finding suitable employment. In its work the working party has enrolled the sympathy and support of the Institute of Employment Consultants, the Institute of Personnel Management and the C.B.I.

## New fields of education and service

In the second year of the MIND Campaign a great deal

has been done to increase our influence in schools, universities and colleges, and among community organisations. The new leaflets, "Mental Disorder—what's it all about?" and "An introduction to mental illness and mental handicap," and the MIND Teachers' Kit have been widely used in secondary and primary schools. A grant from the King's Fund has enabled MIND to appoint, for a three-year assignment, a student liaison officer, to work in universities and colleges.

Though MIND can call on nearly 200 national voluntary organisations for support in its work, perhaps the most encouraging new development is the increasing involvement of Rotary Clubs and Round Tables in the practical service work of local mental health associations. An important factor has been the continuing co-operation between MIND and The Spastics Society.

## MIND Weeks

MIND Week in 1973 is from October 28th to November 3rd and is the third and last in a series of campaign weeks which have seen widespread activities by local mental associations, with the support of local authorities, psychiatric hospitals, and an ever increasing number of community based organisations. The 1973 theme is "Turn sympathy into action"—both in voluntary service and fund-raising—and will be followed on Sunday, 9th December, by a BBC TV Good Cause Appeal.

MIND has come to stay—and, like The Spastics Society, is concerned to get things done both by its own services and by influencing public opinion.





**A** THIEF who operates at dusk has been robbing the Bedford Hotel, the holiday home run by The Spastics Society on the sea-front at Clacton.

First a glass bottle was smashed and its contents stolen, and then the replacement, a big plastic bubble, was taken. Both robberies occurred at dusk.

Now staff have decided to haul the third collecting container inside each tea-time rather than risk another dusk-light robbery.

Said deputy-warden Jack Simmons: "Lots of passers-by out for an evening stroll would pop the odd copper in the jar. This could have a serious effect on the amount we collect. It is a shame that people have to steal from spastics — after all, they can't fight back."

Pictured hauling the collecting container inside for safety are Mrs. Peggy Brewer, who has been the Bedford Hotel's secretary for nine years, and Mr. Simmons

## Outspoken Eddy—one of the world's individuals



**L**AST year spastic Eddy Tustian faced a drugs charge. "Now, whenever the police see me they pull my crutches apart to see if I'm carrying canabis," he said.

Eddy 25, with his flowing brown hair, Smiley-man shirt, African print coat and crochet jerkin, smiled at the memory: "In Bath, where I'm living at the moment, the police call me the 'Crippie Hippie,'" he laughs.

Since living in a Jesus House, however, Eddy is no longer connected with drugs. He found that living there gave him a "more aware feeling—sharper and clearer than any drugs."

Now he is looking for a job. "I don't mind what I do—as long as I don't have to cut my hair. That I won't do. But I don't mind climbing into a suit. When I am in a suit a lot of people, like young housewives out shopping, stop to have a chat. The gear I am wearing now makes some people a bit nervous of getting into a conversation."

He was born in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, where

Eddy is a regular at pop festivals, and here, tent pitched, he listens to the music at the recent Windsor Free Festival.

Picture by courtesy of the Slough Evening Mail

his father farmed 300 acres in the Cotswolds, and is one of 13 children—eight girls and five boys.

When he was 11 he went to Hephaistos, a progressive grammar school for the disabled at Reading where pupils are taught to be individuals. Leaving with four 'O' Levels and an 'A' Level, he went into the Civil Service for two years.

"Then one day I went into my boss and said, 'Can I leave at the end of the month because I'm going abroad?'"

He went to Athens, then returned to England via the Istanbul Express.

Arriving in Richmond, Surrey, with no money and nowhere to live, he solved the problem by sleeping rough.

"Then I stayed with the Eel Pie Commune in Twickenham and eventually got an engineering job in a tool shop for two months to

get some money together.

"Then some friends and I moved to Bath and had a house there but after a while it got taken over by Junkies."

Police became regular visitors at the house, and eventually there was a raid and canabis was found. It meant a court appearance for Eddy, and after that he moved into the Jesus House. Now he is thinking of writing a book about his experiences.

His relationship with the police on the whole is good. "You know a lot of people who've freaked out are even more narrow-minded than the straights. They think all policemen are pigs, but at the Windsor pop festival one policeman was a really great guy. He gave us coffee and shared his biscuits, and told us what was going on. We plan to meet up with him next year."

Next year some friends of his are planning to go to

# Society "will die" without more young volunteers

**MR.** James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society issued a dramatic warning when he addressed delegates to the South-East Regional Conference at Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, last month.

"The Society, I prophesy, will die on its feet — if it doesn't recruit more young people," he told the packed conference hall.

He went on: "The Society will carry on — it will get money and so on — but the cause for alarm for me and others is the failure of local groups to get more young people involved.

"Instead of being recruited, the young parents are more interested in local authority facilities rather than pioneering work. And there is an urgent need to recruit the very young — the school-leavers. Here the young parents could be a bridge between the school-leavers and the groups.

"The groups must pull the stops out. They must have a programme because any young people they attract won't stay interested for long unless they are given something positive to do. For instance, not just raising money but by being associated with the unit that is then built with it. I am not decrying the work already being done, but I want to spotlight this problem."

Mr. Loring's report to delegates from all over the South-East, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire

and Surrey, covered a wide field. It was, he said, a personal report and while much had the explicit blessing of the Society, some points were speculative.

He congratulated the South-East Region for the progress of their Regional Fund which stands at £15,000 — the highest of any region. He also mentioned the importance of the Thomas Delarue School.

"The role of special education is in the melting pot, with the emphasis on integration. But it will go on and already thousands of boys and girls all over the world are grateful to the School."

Mr. Loring said recent legislation had done much to make the handicapped the "in" thing for people to be concerned about in the last five years.

One of the most important pieces of legislation had been the Social Services Act which had unified services, although

Next date in the Regional Conference calendar is the London Region Conference which will be held on Saturday, October 13th, at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, W.1. The organisers are hoping for a large attendance to hear speakers who will discuss problems of spastics at both ends of the age scale — mature adults and the pre-school age child.

A report of the meeting, plus reports on the East Region and North West Region Conferences — which unfortunately have had to be withheld due to pressure on space — will appear in Spastics News next month.

there had been confusion at the outset.

Local Authorities had not been prepared for all that the Act entailed and the coming Local Government Reform Act would exacerbate matters.

In a reference to the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act, Mr. Loring said: "All of us associated with this Act thought a new era had begun, but we are still waiting."

"Those authorities who have done well since the Act are

India—"But I'm hoping we'll go to Africa instead. India's been done and there's a great Hippie caravan going through and missing it all," he said.

There is also a chance he'll get married. "I'd like to get married and have a family, and the marriage ceremony is important. My girl and I will probably do as some of our friends did and write our own ceremony, including all the legal bits."

Eddy never thinks of his handicap: "It just takes me longer to get from A to B, that's all. I came to the conclusion that I was different when I was eight. That was it. I'm an integrated person, the oil between the cogs, because I like to get people together, and talking."

"People think of the disabled in one category and the Flower People in another, and never the twain shall meet. I reckon I show that's not it at all."

# die" without



those who were doing well before its implementation."

In his opinion, unless the Government codified legislation and made money available to implement it, the lot of the handicapped would not be improved.

He praised the formation of the Rowntree Trust at Beverley House, Skipton Road, York, as imaginative and said that a publicity campaign would soon start, as too many parents were unaware that they could claim from the £3m. available from the Trust to aid the congenitally handicapped.

Mr. Loring discussed the difficulty of persuading firms, many of which simply had no adequate facilities, to employ the disabled.

"We should take positive steps and not pussy-foot around if we mean business," he said, suggesting that a Minister with Cabinet status should be given the responsibility of overseeing the needs of the handicapped.

It was also important to identify the handicapped—between 35 per cent and 50 per cent were in this category through age alone — and to bring some unity into the field of voluntary organisations. "What is wanted is a common national programme to identify a common objective," he said.

Delegates heard from the chairman of the South East Regional Co-ordinating committee, Mr. E. G. Williment.

It was the first report of the new committee, and Mr. Williment said the first project was to be the provision of a short-term residential/holiday home on the South Coast.

It was estimated the cost would be £120,000 and the Region would need to raise £8,000-£9,000 a year in order to maintain it.

There was a proven need for it and sites were already being investigated. Mr. Williment felt that there was every hope that the Regional Fund would reach a figure of £20,000 before the end of its first year.

He stressed, however, that there was a long way to go and that more money was needed. Towards this end, the Regional Office would work closely with all groups in every aspect of regional activities. Not only would regional projects be supported but so would local centres which were in difficulties, regional welfare services and the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square.

Belinda Cornford, nine, was determined to enjoy all the fun of the fair during the carnival near her home in Ilford, Essex. Although she is a spastic, she did not let that stop her from joining in most of the carnival events, including the junior talent contest in which she sang "Puff the magic dragon" to a large audience. The organisers were so impressed by her efforts that they presented her with a clock to commemorate the occasion.

Belinda, who attends the Ethel Davis special school for the physically handicapped, wants to adopt a granny. Said her mother, Mrs. Sheila Cornford: "... About five and a half years ago my own mother died. She and Belinda adored each other, and they seemed to have a special relationship. Belinda has missed her terribly since then."

Mrs. Cornford has even tried advertising for a granny by adoption, but received no replies, and has also been in touch unsuccessfully with an adoption bureau which she read about.

"I think there is a need for children to have grandparents, and vice-versa," she said. "Old people are often lonely and one hears all too frequently of an old person being found dead because there is no one to look after them."

"What we want to do is to give someone like that a family to become part of."

Added Belinda: "I would love to have a granny again so we could play games together and I could visit her ..."

Picture by courtesy of Ilford and Redbridge Recorder.

## FOR SALE

**BEC Mk. 10 Portable Electric Wheelchair with battery recharger, 2 forward, 1 reverse speed. £150 o.n.o. — Johnson, 141, Alicia Gardens, Harrow. Tel. 01-907 1479 after 7 p.m.**



# How Gerry's life was suddenly changed

FOR nearly 20 years Gerry, a severely handicapped spastic was lying on his back in a cot in the Kingfisher Ward of Leavesden Hospital, Herts. Now his world has been expanded and the story of how Gerry's world came to change was told to readers of the "West Herts and Watford Observer" by Florence Kirk.

Gerry was placed in Leavesden in 1951 when he was 18. His family never visited him and his only contact with the outside world was an occasional visit from a Jewish social worker. Hospital staff did all they could to create a warm and homely atmosphere throughout the hospital but it was not until the hospital set up a voluntary service department headed by John Robbins as co-ordinator, that dramatic changes occurred.

For a start, young people belonging to the Peter Pan Club at Harrow started visiting and taking patients out. A specially adapted chair was found for Gerry and at last he saw outside the four walls of Kingfisher ward for the first time in two decades. He was "adopted" by a young couple, Margaret Brown and Paul Crooker, who have taken him for rides in the grounds regularly for the last two or three years and Margaret's wedding photos were pinned besides his bed in place of honour.

Then came the brainwave from a staff nurse that a suitably positioned mirror would enable Gerry to see out of the window he had lain beside for 20 years. The hospital carpenter fixed it to his bedside table

and now instead of the ceiling Gerry sees out of the window to people passing in the grounds who, knowing he is watching, make a point of giving him a cheerful wave.

Although he cannot talk he can communicate and suddenly it dawned on staff that Gerry, far from revelling in the pop "muzak" churned through the radio system, was a devotee of the classics. Now he has a transistor tuned to Radio 3 by his bedside.

The most significant change in his life however came when an exhibition was being staged in Cassiobury Park on the patients and work of Leavesden. Permission of parents had to be sought before photos of patients could be used and so a letter was sent to the address given in 1951. To the hospital's surprise Gerry's family replied and later an elderly man was seen studying the display.

It turned out to be Gerry's father. Only the determined efforts of Margaret and Paul eventually persuaded him to see his son and he visited him four times before he himself died. However the link between Gerry and his long-lost family was forged and since then a sister comes to see him from time to time and a second sister on a trip from her home in America, came to visit him.

Now the hospital has its sights set on helping more patients like Gerry who would benefit from the special mirrors and T.V. sets.



## They invent the fastest game on wheels

**STUDENTS** of Thomas Delarue School have invented a new game for the disabled, the fastest game in wheelchairs — wheelchair hockey.

For the first time on their Open Day, this year they gave an exhibition of the game. Rules are much the same as ordinary hockey, except that hockey sticks are cut off to a length more convenient to the wheelchair version they have devised.

Under their games and physical education teacher, Mr. P. Fairweather, they experimented first with a ball, which proved to bounce too much to be controlled from a sitting position, so a wooden putt is now used. The game has now become one of the most popular at Delarue especially with the girls, who have in the past often found themselves at a disadvantage at the school because of their relatively fewer numbers. Now, especially if the game is played four-a-side, there is no difficulty in making up a team and the girls have become sufficiently competent at it to challenge the boys.

**EXHIBITION** players in the new game of wheelchair hockey at Delarue (pictured above), are, left to right (front row): Debra Day, Judith Underwood, Jane Warburton and Gillian Slow. Rear row: Michael Smart, Vernon Hinkley, Bruce Bullen and Alun Francis.

The annual fete at Meldreth Manor School for Spastics, Royston, Hertfordshire, is expected to have brought in about £1,400 this year. Among the attractions were an Army band and trampoline display, a tug-of-war competition for a keg of beer, and a model railway. Many attractive stalls sold a wide variety of goods.

## All children can make music if teacher knows tricks of the trade

**PHILIP** Bailey shows that the means really can justify the end in his book "They can make music."

No matter how devious or underhand the method, he shows that, if by cheating, a child, no matter how badly handicapped, can take part in making music with his classmates, it is justified.

Mr. Bailey has many years of experience working with the handicapped and, as a research fellow at Liverpool University aided by the Carnegie Foundation, he has developed techniques and apparatus to enable disabled children to play music.

His book, recently published by Oxford University Press at £1.75, is an entertaining account and practical guidebook as to

how this can be achieved.

He also illustrates how very often the children not only receive enjoyment, but actual therapeutic benefit from playing instruments.

There was Joan, a physically handicapped child, who was unable to walk. At six and a half she underwent operations which gave her partial use of her legs. However, she was frightened of attempting to walk, and especially of bending her knees. Part of Mr. Bailey's work entailed teaching children music with an elaborate colour scheme. In this scheme Joan was a "green" child, and one morning she stood watching as other children played with balls. A green ball rolled close to her. Without thinking of what she was doing, she instinctively kicked it because it was "her" colour. Eventually, by a slow long process of "accidentally" rolling green balls to her, she was both kicking and walking unaided. The result was certainly due to her associating her music colour with the football.

Mr. Bailey gives many accounts of his tricks of the trade to allow every child, no matter how extensive the handicap, to take part in concerts and musical entertainments.

Some are very simple—such as blocking up the holes on a recorder so that the child can only play the correct note. Other instruments may re-

quire more complicated engineering.

Although he shows that just about any child can make music, either instrumentally or vocally, he describes one charming four-year-old called Ronnie who clearly adored music, but had a weird way of showing it. As soon as he heard music he would get under the nearest table, remove all his clothes, and sit naked and wrapt with enjoyment until the piece ended, when he would dress and re-emerge.

Despite his love of music, nothing could be done to induce him to take part in making it.

Mr. Bailey's book is aimed at teachers who may have had little experience of working with the handicapped, but it is an invaluable text-book. He underlines the fact that "Music is one of the keys which will unlock many doors, and successful participation in very simple musical activities has often resulted in gradual progress in other directions."

There are numerous, useful appendices, including one on modifications to musical instruments.

It makes fascinating reading for all those who are involved with disabled children.

## Engineers will solve individual problems

**A BRAND** new Medical Engineering research unit built at a cost of £20,000 raised by voluntary donations, has opened at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children at Carshalton, Surrey.

The ceremony was performed by Lord Aberdare, Minister of State at the Health Department and among those present was Col. C. J. Jefferson, Head of Centres.

The unit is geared towards developing equipment to compensate the severely handicapped child for the mental or physical skills he lacks and the unit will be able to design answers to specific problems

for individual children which would not be possible on a commercial basis.

Areas of research include communication equipment such as type-writer adaptation for spastics and electronic games for severely handicapped patients such as those with muscular dystrophy and bed-ridden children.

Queen Mary's Hospital has beds for 20 spastic children.

A house-to-house collection organised by the Hemel Hempstead and District Spastics Group raised over £1,136. This was the first "door-knock" operation ever to be held by the group and committee members were most impressed by the town's response.

## Gift ambulance from the Lions

**LANCASTER** and Morecambe Lions Club of Lancashire has presented an ambulance to the local spastics group. Here Councillor Mrs. Ivy Welldrake, right, Chairman of Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society, receives the keys of the ambulance from Lions' Welfare Committee Chairman, Councillor D. J. Dawson. After the handing-over ceremony, prizes and certificates were presented to local winners in the North-West Regional Spastics Games. Making the presentation was Mr. Laurie Boyden, a Vice-President of the Group, and donor of a cup won by Peter Crowther, 12, at the North-West Games.

(Picture by courtesy of Morecambe Guardian)





# Thanks to the charity kids

BY now the new term is well under way, and the summer holidays are just a beautiful memory. But many children were able to return to school this year with a real glow of achievement. They were the youngsters who gave up their spare time to raise money for spastics.

As well as the various groups shown in our photographs, there were seven Scottish boys aged between nine and 14 who organised a 14-mile hike over the Gleniff Braes and collected £25.55 from sponsors for Scottish Spastics.

In Leicestershire, three 11- and 12-year-old girls collected jumble from neighbours and sold it to raise £30 for Coalville Spastics Society. A similar effort was staged by Janet Baldwin, seven, and her friends on behalf of the Cambridge and District Spastics Society.

Finally, from an unknown destination the following letter has arrived at Spastics Society Headquarters together with a donation of 70p:

"Dear Sir,  
Me and my sister have made a sale for the spastics, and we thought that we would give this money to you.

From Wendy Belcher, age eight, and Julie Belcher, age six."

We are unable to send these girls a receipt as they have not given their address, but in case they happen to see Spastics News, we should like to say "Thank you very much, Wendy and Julie." Thank you also all the other youngsters who gave up their holidays on behalf of spastics.

A record £2,666 was raised last year by Bradford and District Branch of The Spastics Society in Yorkshire. This was £700 more than the previous year's income, it was announced at the group's annual meeting. The money will be used towards the running costs of Grove House, Bradford's residential home for spastics.

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Picture (right) shows organisers and guests at a garden fete in aid of spastics in Hemel Hempstead, which raised £10.12.

In the foreground, right, is Deborah Ravenshall, 10, in whose garden the fete was held. Next to her is Mrs. Jean Green, a member of Watford Spastics Society, with her spastic son Nicholas, and daughter Clare. Mrs. Green received the proceeds of the fete on behalf of the group.

In the row behind them are Deborah's friends who helped to organise the fete, left to right: Menna Lloyd-Ellis, 10; Judy Fish, 10; Sheila Gabb, 10; Laurrian Malone, 11; Karen Booty, 10; Jane Booty, four; Philip Routledge, and Stuart Gabb, 12, holding four-year-old Trevor Ravenhall.

Picture by courtesy of Watford Evening Echo.



These six girls from Winterton, Lincolnshire, in the picture above, left, held a garden party which raised the magnificent total of £50.50 for Scunthorpe and District Spastics Society. They are, left to right, Diane Johnson, Sarah Pearce, Sharon Frost, Elizabeth Stubbins, Anne Johnson and Julie Frost.

The second picture shows four boys who helped out. From left to right they are Dave Doughty, Mark Fawcett, James Mackintosh and David Brocklesby.

The girls designed and painted their own posters, made soft toys, begged gifts for the bottle stall, and provided refreshments. They are looking forward to repeating the effort next year and hoping to double the amount of money raised.

Pictures by courtesy of Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph.



Reggie Dunkling, pictured above, may be only 11, but he is well on the way to establishing himself as a playwright, comedy actor and impresario—and all in aid of The Spastics Society.

It all started with the school holidays. Reggie, of Beech Ave., Acton, did not want to waste his holidays so he decided to use the time helping spastics. He sat down and wrote a play in the finest traditions of melodrama, added a few comedy sketches, and then went round to his local Vicar to sell the idea of "A

night of fun and mystery." His showmanship paid off and the show was performed in St. Thomas' Church, Acton, and raised £27.

Reggie organised a cast of five friends, all aged between 11 and 13, to act in his play.

Picture right: Organisers of this jumble sale at Ipswich, Suffolk, are in the centre of the picture, left to right: Joanne Mullett, Timothy Clover and his sister Terry. They hoped to collect about £2 for spastics.

Picture by courtesy of Evening Star, Ipswich.



The girls above earned £8.25 for Blackburn Spastics Group, Lancashire, with a jumble sale organised by themselves. They spent about a week collecting up old clothes and other second-hand goods which they sold from a roadside stall. The girls are, left to right, Gail Booth, eight; Heather Smith, nine; Jennifer Smith, nine; and Heather's sister, Alison, eight.

Photo by courtesy of Lancashire Evening Telegraph

